



EXHIBIT 6  
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SB 351

March 15, 2011

Good morning, Rep. Arntzen and members of the Business & Labor Committee, my name is Dennis Taylor. I am the policy coordinator for the Montana Children's Initiative (MCI), a 17 member provider organization providing children's mental health services, shelter care and foster parent services in virtually every county in the state of Montana.

I appear before you today in support of SB 351, a bill to ensure much needed oversight, accountability and transparency in the event that the Department of Health and Human Services pursues a contract for Medicaid managed care.

Montana children's mental health providers and the children and families we serve are still recovering from the last abortive attempt to implement a children's mental health managed care contract. The entire Magellan experience was a total failure that caused great anguish and turmoil in the Montana children's mental health service system.

Sen. Ripley's bill seeks to put in place a framework and structure for review, comment and due diligence to guide any attempt by state government to contract to provide managed care in Montana going forward. SB 351 builds on the lessons learned from the previous failed venture into managed care in Montana.

MCI especially supports the creation of a broadly representative advisory council to review and comment on any request for proposals (RFP) for managed care and to provide a needed forum for oversight, collaboration and participation in the procurement process.

SB 351 ensures public notice, legislative oversight, and opportunity for public comment. Most importantly, SB 351 will ensure an independent analysis to verify that any vendor selected to provide Medicaid managed care services in Montana has the demonstrated ability to comply with all system requirements and achieve intended goals and outcomes.

Please establish these fundamental principles of managed care oversight.  
Please give SB 351 a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this important and timely bill.